

Appln No. 10/642,435

Amdt date January 19, 2005

Reply to Office action of October 19, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-17 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended. The amendments find full support in the original specification, claims and drawings. No new matter has been added. In view of the above amendments and remarks that follow, reconsideration, reexamination, and an early indication of allowance of claims 1-17 are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 7-12, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gross et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,326,903) in view of McConnell et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,710,555). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite "a real-time status monitor for monitoring status at a selected intersection and verifying preemption of the intersection." (Emphasis added). Claim 11 has also been amended to recite "verifying preemption of the intersection." None of the cited references teach or suggest this limitation.

Gross discloses a traffic signal transceiver affixed to a traffic signal. When the traffic signal transceiver receives an EM transmission from an emergency vehicle transceiver, control of the traffic signal is preempted by a traffic signal control device in favor of the emergency vehicle. (Col. 9, lines 15-20; Col. 14, lines 28-34). Upon preempting control of the traffic signal in favor of the emergency vehicle, the traffic signal transceiver begins to broadcast a signal indicative of the preemption by the emergency vehicle. The system disclosed in

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Gross assumes that whatever commands transmitted by the traffic signal control device to preempt the traffic lights have been successfully implemented. Nothing indicates that Gross' system engages in "verifying preemption of the intersection" as is recited by amended claims 1 and 11. (Emphasis added).

McConnell discloses a siren detector which outputs a preempt output signal upon detecting siren sounds. The preempt output signal is input to a traffic light control system. This alerts the traffic light control system to preempt the pedestrian traffic lights. Nothing in McConnell teaches or suggests, however, "verifying preemption of the intersection" as is recited in claims 1 and 11. Accordingly, claims 1 and 11 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 7-10, 12, 16, and 17 are also in condition for allowance because they depend on an allowable base claim, and for the additional limitations contained therein.

The Examiner rejects claims 2-6 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gross et al. in view of McConnell et al. and further in view of Smith et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,775,865). Claims 2-6 and 13-15 are in condition for allowance because they depend on an allowable base claim, and for the additional limitations contained therein.

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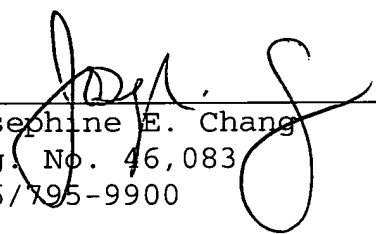
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In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration, reexamination, and an early indication of allowance of claims 1-17 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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